

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC General Information on the Zonal Border Area Along the Demarcation Line

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT                     

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 16 July 1953

## REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

## REMARKS

- 25X1 1. On 19 June 1953,                      two SSD members boarded the train in
- 25X1                      Zopten to check all travellers;                      Gerbersdorf was occupied by about 60 Soviets,
- 25X1 and                      while the train stopped for about 15 minutes at the Probatzella railroad
- 25X1 station, one officer and 2 soldiers of the border guard troops made another check
- 25X1 on the travellers.                      other soldiers were posted on the platform, at
- 25X1 the gate and in the railroad station area. The train was not checked by Soviet soldiers
- 25X1 2. About 25 VPs armed with Soviet submachine guns with drum magazines and about 10
- 25X1 Soviet soldiers stood at the Saalfeld railroad station. Three trucks occupied by
- 25X1 Soviet soldiers parked in front of the railroad station. Two other trucks occupied
- 25X1 by soldiers and 2 jeeps were at the market square. One of the trucks was armed with
- 25X1 machine guns while a light gun was mounted on the other truck. The VPs and the
- 25X1 Soviet soldiers drove the crowd away.
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- All the trucks                      were vehicles for personnel.<sup>2</sup>
3. From 12 to 20 June 1953, the Soviet detail in Koepfelsdorf was reduced to about 70
- soldiers including officers. Dependents who formerly lived at the Blechschmidt Villa
- were unexpectedly transported away. Remaining officers and personnel left either
- by rail or by truck when the Berlin uprising began. A watch tower on the Marseille
- Villa was removed. Only 3 trucks and 2 jeeps were still in the town.<sup>3</sup>
- 25X1 4.
- 25X1                      50 Soviet soldiers moved to Neustadt on the Orla River on 18 June.
- During the night on 21 June, VPs did earth work in the border strip near Wilden-
- heid. They allegedly planted tread mines. <sup>1</sup> and <sup>3</sup>
5. On 22 June 1953, civilian workers removed barbed wire under supervision of the
- Volkspolizei along the demarcation line in the Eishausen-Adelhausen area, leaving
- only the piles. VPs subsequently plowed up the 10-m strip. The population in the
- border area was given permission on 22 June to enter the 500-m strip every second

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day without special permit and to work there without special supervision. A total of 70 VPs and 10 Soviet soldiers were quartered in Eishausen on 22 June.

6. From 16 to 26 June, the situation in the border zone in East Germany across from the Hildesheim district appeared unchanged. There were no movements by Soviet or German border guard details or intensified patrols or alerts. Soviet patrols more frequently patrolled the area close to the zonal border across from the Duderstadt district since 17 June. Soviet details employed there allegedly bivouacked in the area near Teistungen and Boesekendorf.<sup>1</sup>
7. On 19 and 20 June, the border sector east of Ratzeburg appeared unchanged. No reinforcements of the Volkspolizei were observed. Soviet patrols were employed at the previous rate and were on duty away from the border area. The attitude of the VPs toward west German border guard personnel was still friendly despite the riots in East Berlin.<sup>1</sup>

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1.   Comment. This, as well as information on other sectors, tends to indicate that no decisive measures were taken for the border area as a result of the uprising in East Germany.

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2.   Comment. The Soviet vehicles belong to the 39th Guards Mtz Rifle Div

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3.   Comment. These transfers were probably linked with the uprising as well as the political change of course.

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